(b) to (d) The total coal production in the country during the last three years was as under:—

(In million tonnes)

1988-89 (Actual)	1989-90 (Actual)	1990-91 (Actual)
194.60	200.89	211.73

Although overall coal production in the country has been increasing over years, production targets fixed could not be achieved due to following reasons:—

1. Erratic supply of power in Eastern sector.
2. Absenteeism amongst workers.
3. Industrial relations and Law and Order problems, especially in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.
4. Adverse geo-mining conditions in certain mines.

Leakage of poisonous gases from Lodna unit of BCCL

942. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of inhabitants including children and minors have been badly affected due to the continuous discharge of poisonous gases from the Lodna unit of the BCCL;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the circumstances under which the leakage occurred;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to provide relief to the affected persons; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to check the leakage and to clear the atmospheric pollution and also to check such leakages in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in the prices of coal

943. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to increase prices of coal;

(b) whether there is any link between this proposed increase and partial privatisation of the coal industry;

(c) whether Government have received suggestions or recommendations of any international, financial agency on the subject of coal price and privatisation of coal industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited have sent proposals for revision of the price of coal and this is being examined by the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Pricing of Coal is an internal exercise of Government of India and no suggestions of any bilateral or multilateral financing agencies have been invited.